



CITY OF TUCSON
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
(CODI)
MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the Tucson Commission on Disability Issues was called to order by George McFerron, Chair, on Wednesday, September 19, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., at Eastside City Hall, in the Conference Room, located at 7575 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, AZ.

1. Roll Call

| Commission Members | Representing | Present/Absent |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Susan Zimmerman | Mayor | Present |
| Vacancy | Ward 1 | |
| Larry Lucas | Ward 2 | Present |
| Michael Pesce | Ward 3 | Present |
| Barton Beck | Ward 4 | Present (left at 4:21 p.m.) |
| Cyndi Segroves | Ward 5 | Present |
| Robert Blizzard | Ward 6 | Present |
| George H. McFerron - Chair | Mayor/Council | Present |
| Jeffrey Handt – Vice Chair | Mayor/Council | Present (arrived at 3:47 p.m.) |
| Phyllis A. Cowman | Mayor/Council | Absent |
| Vacancy | City Manager | |
| Jean Paul Jorquera | City Manager | Present |
| Vacancy | City Manager | |
| Staff Present | Representing | |
| John Zukas | Tucson Department of Transportation | |
| Ralph Power | Sun Tran | |
| Michelle Clark | Sun Tran and Van Tran | |
| Alison Colter-Mack | Equal Opportunity Office | |
| Shellie Ginn | Tucson Department of Transportation | |
| Roger Phillips | Recording Secretary, City Clerk's Office | |

Cyndi Segroves introduced herself as the newest member of the Commission filling a long time vacancy.

2. Staff Reports – Discussion/Recommendation/Action (Items were taken out of order)

- a. Sun Tran – Ralph Power gave a report on the ridership increases during the months of July (seven point one [7.1] percent) and August (six point five [6.5] percent). He said this was compared to the national average of three point one (3.1) percent. In order to deal with the increased stress within Sun Tran, each department was working on a strategic plan that works with the strategic plan for the entire organization of Sun Tran. He stated this was due to a combination of many factors such as increased population, higher gas prices, more marketing and additional communication.
- b. Van Tran – Ralph Powers reported there had been a four point two (4.2) percent increase in ridership over last year at that same time. This reflected three thousand and twenty eight (3,028) rides while cancellations remained at eight point three (8.3) percent. No-shows had increased by nineteen point four (19.4) percent. Compliments had increased to nine (9) over three (3) from last year while complaints had also increased to thirty-four (34) from ten (10) during the same period last year, representing a two hundred and forty (240) percent increase. He said this was not too bad considering this was one complaint for every one thousand five hundred and twenty-seven (1,527) passenger trips. There were five (5) preventable accidents in July and August compared to three (3) during the same period last year. The average hold time on the phone was one minute and thirty-three seconds (1:33).

Commissioner Powers introduced Michelle Clark, the new Customer Satisfaction Director for both Sun Tran and Van Tran.

- c. ADA Eligibility/Transportation – John Zukas reported during August there had been three hundred ten (310) applications requested, three hundred twenty-nine (329) received, forty-nine (49) returned as incomplete, four hundred twenty-three (423) processed with three (3) denials with an average of nine point six one (9.61) days required to process the applications. He also reported that the CODI Transportation Sub-Committee met and

discussed various eligibility issues. He also said the Living Independently with Freedom and Equality (LIFE) Mobility Training contract would expire at the end of September and would not be renewed. The Tucson Department of Transportation would be taking the training in-house. He also spoke about the new paperless voucher payment system that Van Tran would be implementing.

- d. Parks & Recreation – no report was given.
- e. Equal Opportunity Programs – Alison Colter-Mack gave a report and spoke about an article in the ADA Compliance Guide on service animals, which had been placed on the EEO web site. She also stated that the 2nd Annual Report to the Department of Justice was complete and also posted on the web site. Ms. Colter-Mack said she, Chair McFerron and Commissioner Blizzard would be attending an emergency preparedness meeting conducted by the Tucson Fire Department that would have emphasis on persons with disabilities.
- f. Human Relations Commission – no report was given.

3. How to use “LISTSERV” – Jean-Paul Jorquera – Information Only

Commissioner Jorquera gave a presentation on “LISTSERV”. He stated he met with the University of Arizona to see how their “LISTSERV” worked and to get ideas. In creating CODI’s “LISTSERV”, an e-mail would be sent to all members asking them if they would like to become a member of the “LISTSERV”. To become a member, you do not need to be a Yahoo member to receive e-mail. Once it was up and running, members could receive information regarding the Commission. Commissioner Jorquera would be the contact person for this service.

Roger Phillips of the City Clerk’s Office was asked if this would conflict with the Open Meeting Law and he said he would have to get a clarification and would get back to the Commission.

4. Transit On The Move presentation – Joan Beckim – Information Only

Joan Beckhim introduced Shellie Ginn who was the City of Tucson Department of Transportation Project Manager. A presentation was given on the Modern Streetcar Project to update the Commission on what was going on with the project and specifically some of the ADA issues or actual ADA accommodations that were being made. The Modern Street Cars:

- are not like the Old Pueblo Trolley.
- will be air-conditioned.
- will accommodate wheelchair, strollers, and bicycles.
- will be compatible with on street parking, and the transit system.
- will run in a lane of travel and not have its own right-of-way.
- are smaller than light rail, but more modern than the Old Pueblo Trolley.

The route would start at Campbell and Helen and would run to Cherry through the university campus to Park Avenue, along University Boulevard to 4th Avenue towards the maintenance facility which was behind the O'Malleys Building. The route would continue on Congress heading west using Granada to access under the I-10 and over a new bridge at the Santa Cruz River going through the new development area and Rio Nuevo turning north on Avenida del Convento terminating at Congress.

The alignment would be approximately four miles long, with nineteen stations. It was anticipated that seven street cars would be purchased, five to six would run with one as a spare. The project was due to be completed by 2010.

Discussion was held on the following items:

- Use of the street cars – who, when and where
- Expansion of route
- Regional Transportation Authority support by voters
- Use of track by both the historic trolley and the modern street car

5. Call to the Audience

Nancy Dipple asked how the people on the Commission were appointed or elected. She also asked about the Open Meeting Law, handouts to people attending the meeting, and if a visual presentation was made, why people with a disability were not allowed to sit closer to see.

6. Break – Recess at 3:38 p.m. and reconvened at 3:47 p.m.

Chair McFerron announced that all members were present.

7. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events – Informational Only

Chair McFerron stated that he had received a number of questions from individuals, which in turn he directed to the appropriate subcommittees. Some of the questions included:

- housing
- hospice agencies
- people with health problems, medical needs, insurance options

He said the fire department was heading an emergency operations plan. He asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. Commissioners Blizzard and Segroves agreed to serve on the committee.

8. Commission Member's Summary of Current Events – Informational Only

Commissioner Lucas reported that Pima Community College East would have an Art Show at the Southern Arizona Center for the Visually Impaired.

Commissioner Blizzard reported the situation with the medical complex at Swan and Ft. Lowell, zoned R-1, was found in his favor. They would fix the citations to allow for ADA compliance and disabled accommodations.

Commissioner Zimmerman reported that on October 12, 2007, Pima Community College, Desert Vista Campus would be hosting a Students with Disabilities Panel.

9. Sub-Committee Reports

- a. Housing – Commissioner Beck reported on the Inclusive Home Design ordinance efforts. The City was to adopt an ordinance similar to the one Pima County currently has. He also reported the Builder Recognition Award would be given to the John Wesley Miller Companies.
- b. Public Relations/Education – Commissioner Pesce reported that a group of about twenty people had been meeting with the Subcommittee regarding the 2008 CODI Conference to be held on October 10, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Holidome. He talked about some of the activities and workshops that would be conducted.
- c. Services/Programs/Activities/Architectural Barriers (SPAA) – Commissioner Handt reported that he and Chair McFerron had been asked to survey some of the pathways at the Tucson Botanical Gardens.
- d. Transportation – Commissioner Blizzard spoke about accessibility improvements that would be made to bus stops, bus shelters, and sidewalks. He said talks were on hold regarding the Park and Ride facility on Houghton Road.
- e. Employment – No report was given.

10. Budget Report and Expenditures – Discussion/Recommendation/Action

- a. Posters for buses - \$300

It was moved by Commissioner Pesce, duly seconded, and passed by a voice vote of 9 to 0 to spend \$300 to reprint CODI posters for placement in Sun Tran buses.

- b. 2008 CODI Conference Allocation - \$14

It was moved by Commissioner Blizzard, duly seconded, and passed by a voice vote of 9 to 0 to reimburse Commissioner Jorquera \$15 for payment of the registration fee for the 2008 CODI Conference web site.

11. CODI Membership Recommendations – Discussion/ Recommendation/Action

Discussion was held regarding the process for appointment to serve on the CODI. The process was ultimately Mayor and Council's decision with some input from the Commission members themselves. The following were people who had expressed an interest in serving on the committee.

- a. Renee Schierling
- b. Rev. David C. Sharlau, Sr.
- c. Tony King
- d. Ken Rogers

Tony King introduced himself and expressed his interest in becoming a member of CODI.

Commissioner Beck departed at 4:21 p.m.

12. Subcommittee Membership – Discussion/Recommendation/ Action

- a. Membership
- b. Clerk's Office support

13. Future Agenda Items

It was moved by Commissioner Blizzard, duly seconded, and approved by a voice vote of 8 to 0 (Commissioner Beck absent/excused) to continue items 11 through 13 until the next meeting of October 17, 2007.

14. Adjournment: 4:30 p.m.